size, steam parameters, coal quality, site ambient conditions etc. There is a large variation in the heat rate offered by various suppliers for different projects.

(c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003 generating companies are free to set up thermal power stations and no clearance from CEA/Ministry of Power is required for the thermal stations. Apart from the heat rate and efficiency, number of other considerations influence the purchase decision like prices offered, delivery schedule.

Discussion in the Conference of State Power Ministers

988. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked States to operationalise open access, as laid down in the Electricity Act, 2003 and the National Electricity Policy;

(b) whether a conference of State Power Ministers was held at New Delhi, recently;

(c) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government has asked States to increase power generation capacity and also to check transmission and distribution losses; and

(e) if so, the incentives Government proposes to give to States to increase power generation capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Conference of Power Ministers of States was held on 23rd June, 2009 at New Delhi.

(c) Issues relating to Capacity Addition, Open Access, Rural Electrification and Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme were discussed in detail during the Conference and a Resolution was adopted at the end of the Conference.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No specific incentive was announced for the states to increase Power Generation capacity during the Conference held on 23.06.2009.

World Bank Loan for power plants

989. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently sanctioned a loan to India in the shape of assistance, for renovation and modernization of power plants;